

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 FEA-01  
ERDA-05 EA-10 EUR-12 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NASA-01 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 OES-07 SS-15  
ERDE-00 /097 W

-----021450 231914Z /41

O 231825Z AUG 77  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 536

S E C R E T GENEVA 7211

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, CCD, US, UR  
SUBJECT: CCD: RW

REF: A. GENEVA 6685, B. GENEVA 6943

1. ON AUGUST 2, THE US AND SOVIET UNION STARTED THE SECOND ROUND OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS (RW) AND NEW MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW). THIS IS ONE OF THE WORKING GROUPS THAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT REACHED DURING THE VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE TO MOSCOW IN MARCH 1977.

2. AT THE OUTSET OF THIS ROUND THE SOVIET SIDE ADVOCATED THAT WE PROCEED ON AN OMNIBUS MDW TREATY. THE US SIDE COUNTERED WITH THE SUGGESTION THAT WE CONCENTRATE ON RW AS A SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF MDW AND PUT FORWARD KEY ELEMENTS OF A POSSIBLE CONVENTION. THE SOVIET SIDE AGREED TO PROCEED ON RW AND SUBSEQUENTLY PUT FORWARD A MORE COMPREHENSIVE RW PROPOSAL WHICH MIGHT SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR A JOINT INITIATIVE IN THE CCD. ON AUGUST 5 (GENEVA 6685) THE US DEL REPORTED THE SOVIET PROPOSAL AND ASKED FOR INSTRUCTIONS. SINCE THEN WE HAVE WORKED TO RESOLVE MINOR  
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LANGUAGE DIFFERENCES BUT HAVE ESSENTIALLY BEEN MARKING TIME, AWAITING FURTHER GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON. NOW OUR OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT A FULL RESPONSE TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL IS DISAPPEARING WITH THE END OF THE CCD RAPIDLY APPROACHING (AUGUST 30). THE SOVIET DELEGATION HAS BEEN MOST PATIENT BUT CLEARLY EXPECTS TO HEAR MORE FROM THE US SIDE BEFORE THIS ROUND ENDS. IN ADDITION A NUMBER OF

CCD DELEGATIONS HAVE MADE FAVORABLE MENTION OF RECEIVING A JOINT US-SOVIET INITIATIVE ON RW, AS LONG AS SUCH AN INITIATIVE WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH HIGHER PRIORITY ITEMS (I.E., CTB, CW).

3. USDEL BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO PROVIDE US RESPONSE TO SOVIETS ON SCOPE, DEFINITION AND VERIFICATION OF DRAFT RW CONVENTION BEFORE ENDING THIS ROUND. IF WE DO NOT PROVIDE AT LEAST A PARTIAL RESPONSE, WE RISK CONVEYING THE SIGNAL EITHER THAT OUT RW INITIATIVE WAS A PLOY OR THAT WE LACK INTEREST IN ONE OF THE WORKING GROUPS ESTABLISHED DURING SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT. IN THE LATTER CASE, THIS MIGHT HAVE UNFORTUNATE RAMIFICATIONS WITH RESPECT TO OTHER WORKING GROUPS.

4. SOVIETS HAVE PRESSED TO MEET ON RW WITH USDEL AUGUST 24 AND OUR LAST FEASIBLE OPPORTUNIT FOR A SUBSEQUENT MEETING IS AUGUST 26. IF WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS BY THAT TIME WE WILL END ROUND.  
VANDEN HEUVEL

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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